

DO YOU KNOW HARDCORE?

SPECIAL "DUSTY DIGEST" ZINE SWAP ISSUE

INTRO - "Every Kid... Every Kid Is My Brother Here!" I don't want to be fall victim of being sentimental here (after all this is a hardcore fanzine and being sentimental can be a dangerous thing) but I would like to say something about this fanzine swap initiative. Everyone knows we live in an age when most people are looking for what separates us instead of trying to find common ground and what could bring us together. Thanks to Dusty Digest fanzine who came up with this awesome fanzine swap idea, dude you are a fuckin' bridge-builder! Do You Know Hardcore? is a free zine, feel free to make copies for your friends, just please don't sell it. Take care, Ati **Contact:** Instagram @atimental / email - meheszattila@yahoo.com / Colossal maus logo by Dylan Chadwick @drugdogs

If you liked what you read (or didn't like what you read), please donate some bucks to Fuzzbrain Music on the GoFundMe platform ("Help Rebuild Fuzzbrain Studios"). A few weeks ago one of the most important places to NE London's music community burnt to the ground overnight. Fuzzbrain Studios was a practice, recording and hang out space for many hardcorepunk bands like The Chisel, The Annihilated or Mastermind.

#2.5

BREAKTHROUGH

HARDCORE TREASURES One of the best feelings on the planet mental is going to my post office and picking up a package that I ordered or pre-ordered weeks, months before (Or years before? Shout out to Livewire Records and Youngblood Records, those were the days haha!) and opening it up to see what little extras might have been inside the mailer. Sometimes a sticker with an awesome design, a postcard with a promo picture of the band, a pin, a one-sheet fanzine, which are bad ass as shit. But no better feeling when you get a surprise package with limited treasures and unique materials inside.

1. How well do you remember the year 2009? That was the year when Bear Grylls was equally popular as the Raw Life LP. (If there was a new series of the Man vs Wild/Ultimate Survival to come out today I would ask The Rival Mob to write the music theme for the series.) The Rival Mob used to be one of those bands in hardcore that had an extreme amount of hype. They were the typical example of the slogan "believe the hype". The ongoing popularity of the band was totally justified from the "Bitter Rivals" demo to "If You Listen To Fools..." cassette. 10-15 years ago I spend hours surfing on eBay for rare treasures to complete my record/tape/t-shirt collection, and I used to see Rival Mob tees, crewnecks, hoodies for sale all the time. People were willing to pay extremely high prices, 70-80 bucks on eBay*** for a Mob or a Free Spirit t-shirt. No doubt about it, The Rival Mob knew how to do great merchandise. At first they had a very "fuck it" attitude and viewed t-shirts as a mindless boring part of the hardcore culture, so they didn't print tees. A few months later, things completely changed and they started printing (better and better) designs. Things got loose with their merch and went completely insane. Nothing proves this better than this lovely, cynic and funny story: someone started selling a Rival Mob soda with a handwritten label on eBay. "Picked this up at Chaos in Tejas 2011, it was hot and I needed to hydrate, I drank the one 11 but I saved this one for eBay. Now I need money for TIHC so my loss is your gain. DO NOT OPEN RIGHT AWAY IT WILL GET SHOOK UP IN THE MAIL. Bid hard. PAYPAL ONLY, NO INTERNATIONAL. They'll think the soda is a bomb, but really it's THE bomb." Biblical.

There is nothing more comfortable than a Rival Mob tee, so on a lovely day in 2010 I bidded hard on their "Same Shit Different Day" tee (black t-shirt with red ink) and I won. As I mentioned earlier, normally RM shirts were the big ticket items on eBay but I only paid 21 bucks for this baby, I didn't feel like a complete idiot. Now we arrived to the point of my story, an incredible surprise was waiting for me when I opened the package, I got two different test printing Mob tees in the packet. "Same Shit Different Day" red tee with silver ink and "Mob Rules All" yellow tee with red ink. I am not sure who printed these up but they are great tees, could have been made by one of the guys working at the screen printing shop. I love the colorway on both them, if you want to see these tees you can find them on my Instagram (@atimental). (I apologize but I can not remember who the package came from. If it was you, dear reader, thanks again, you made my day. Send me a note! And a super limited Mob tee again.)

Photos by Danielle Parsons,
Future-breed.

THE RIVAL MOB



2. It's hard to believe but it was nearly 17 years ago that I first heard the Breakthrough demo, and I was into this band from the very first second. When I got this cassette from a friend of mine (he had a couple copies) I spent pretty much the whole weekend shut in my room listening to it on repeat. OK. It's no secret that this is my favorite hardcore demo of all time, and I am not even joking when I say that BT changed my life for the better forever. Sure, the quality of the recording is not perfect, and I suppose there must be better written hardcore songs in history. But if someone asks me to talk about the attitude of hardcore this band will pop up in my mind first. Everything that surrounds this band is so natural, Breakthrough was permeated with passion and an atmosphere of humility which fully demonstrates the DIY spirit. The story of the band is more than crucial. Crucial John decided in the summer of 2003 to ask his long time friend, Israel Soriano (The First Step) if he would help him out with some ideas he had. Izzy agreed and said he would write the music for the demo. John handled the lyrical end and they got together in November of 2003 to record the demo. In total secrecy the two friends loaded a car with drums and guitar equipment and headed to Winston-Salem. They recorded at the NCmusic Studio in two days. This is the same studio where the first TFS demo and the What We Know sessions were recorded. Izzy recorded the drums, guitar and bass tracks all in one take.

After the session they just started giving the demo tape out to friends and hardcore kids that were interested. John gave them all out for FREE, he has sent out over a thousand demos. They thought it would be fun to play live, so they called upon some friends to help them out, and TFS gave them the opportunity to play all over the States with them and numerous times in Europe too. BT demo has some of the best and most inspiring lyrics I have ever read. "Just one night can open someone's eyes / inspire them to question the world and their lives / I know it's true because it happened to me..." This song is mostly about how hardcore can be the biggest waste of time to some people, but to others it can be a breeding ground for tremendous inspiration. It only takes one gig or a brief moment to really help a person realize that this is the type of music they have been searching for. "You're in your thirties and you're still hardcore? Grow up!" I heard this a thousand times already. No thanks, I'll waste my life chasing times like these... A few years ago I got a long awaited Give package from Crucial John. To my biggest surprise, he sent the original copy of a Breakthrough advertisement to me. Brick wall background. Crucial live photo of the band. Cut'n'paste design. I can still smell the glue on the paper. What more can I say? If you're a Breakthrough fan this is a real treasure.

3. The early Revelation Records artworks are straight up classics. Dave Bett was the man working on a lot of those classic layouts since the late 1980s, New York City Hardcore - The Way It Is compilation, Break Down The Walls, Speak Out, Bringin' It Down all carry his signature. Aesthetically flawless editing, photos of shows bursting with energy, big, bold letters. The story of the Rev logo is closely connected to him too. Revelation Records used stars on the first few releases as a background which was Cappa's idea. When they started working on their upcoming 4th release (which was the Gorilla Biscuits st 7") Alex Brown (RIP) took the star concept and put the letter "R" in a star and had the label name under it inside a box. Shortly after that Revelation was working on the layout for the The Way It Is compilation with graphic designer Dave Bett, and he offered to clean the logo up for them. So he did and that's basically the logo they have been using ever since. I wrote about it in an earlier Chiller Than Most article, the Youth of Today poster from 1986 with the picture taken at the Rat in Boston, and the BOLD poster advertising for Looking Back are hanging on my wall, but I could not get a hold of one of my all time favourite, BOLD's Speak Out poster. The Speak Out poster and I used to have a bad relationship, sometimes I wasn't bidding hard enough on eBay, other times I was not happy with the condition of the item. Just a few months after the article was published I got a package from the editor of Hashtag Hardcore fanzine, Daan gifted me this awesome poster. I was unspeakably happy, and that same week I went and got it framed.

*** eBay is an interesting thing. A few months after that Balu and I released the True Colors "Get'em" 7 inch for the band's last show, we were still selling a few dozen records in our online store, of course, at regular price. Suddenly we noticed that the record is consistently listed on eBay, and people are getting into bidding wars over it and buying it for three times the price. We decided to put the remaining records on eBay, so we managed to sell them. Fun fact: we were toying with the idea of selling these leftover True Colors records with a limited eBay cover. If people are so stupid to bid on this and pay 20 euros for it (while the record is still available for 4 euros on our bigcartel site), at least they would get a something "special" for their dirty money. I made one of these limited edition covers, and the following inscription was on it: "Get'em from eBay!". I don't remember what the reason was, but we ended up passing on the idea and not selling the records with these limited cover.



YO BALU! THE KIDS ARE STILL ALRIGHT

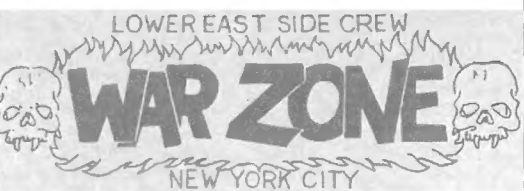
What are some of your hc treasures you received as freebies/extras through mailorder? Have you ever received some cool hc goodies (tape, record, tee, letter, mixtape, flyer, zine, poster, whatever you want) from a friend or a penpal?



Tim McMahon (Double Cross): Back when Tony Rettman and I did Common Sense fanzine, I made it a point to include my address in all the ads and in the zine, with hopes that I would get lots of mail. I use to watch Tony get tons of mail from when he did I4NI zine and I was always so impressed. I did a fanzine called Slew and although I did get some mail, it wasn't to the extent of what Tony was getting, so I really wanted to try and get more mail directed at me with Common Sense. / I remember trading zines with so many different zine editors, Open Your Eyes zine, Good & Plenty zine, Fastbreak zine, Silent Victory zine, just to name a few. All those zine editors would send flyers when we'd write back and forth, especially Mikey from Fastbreak zine. He was from Southern California and there was so much going on there at that point, so he was constantly sending me cool flyers for all these great upcoming shows. / Trading photos back then was always big too. AJ from Silent Victory zine out of Connecticut was a pen pal of mine and he'd often send skate photos or photos he shot at the Anthrax. I specifically remember getting a few photos of Alone In A Crowd from him, from the one and only show they ever played. Getting those seemed special because they were such a legendary type band before they even played or the record was even released. That Alone In A Crowd 7" recording got passed around before the release of the 7" and we all loved that record, so there was a lot of hype there. Seeing those photos with Jules wearing the white hooded Champion and red Judge Schism shirt over it, was just incredible.

John Scharbach (Shining Life Press): When I was a 14 and living in North Carolina, my skate bud and best friend would spend summers with his mom in Chicago. We always kept in touch with tons of phone calls and letters during his time there and one day a letter arrived and he included a round trip bus ticket from NC to Chicago for me and told me to come stay and hang with him for a few weeks and we could explore and skate the city. I went of course and that might have been the best gift I've ever received through the mail. For punk and hardcore gifts, during Give we would play the Fort Reno concert series here in DC every other year, I think we played three times total, and the series was organized by Amanda Mackaye. Amanda sang in the Rountineers, did Sammach records and is just a strong fixture in the music scene in here in town and through playing Fort Reno and seeing her around DC at other shows, we became pretty friendly. One day she asked for my address out of the blue and told me she was going to mail me a surprise. I had no idea what it was going to be but a few weeks later a box with a shirt arrived. She sent me a Warzone 88 tour shirt that she had gotten when she saw them in DC, I was totally blown away. There was also the time During our first European tour in 2010 at a show in London, I met an older guy at the show, Clifford Anthonisz, who went to a ton of gigs in the late 80's in England and was as big of a ride fan as I was. We hung and chatted for most of the night and kept in touch. When I got home he mailed me a box and inside was a RIDE chelsea girl test press and an original Nowhere shirt. My friend CC still sends me stuff in the mail every so often and whenever he does he always stuffs it full of extras, like comic books, trading cards, flyers, and other straight edge ephemera that he knows I love. I love sending and receiving mail so if anyone wants to be penpals, hit me up!

Zachary Wuerthner (Shining Life Press): Back in 2014 I bought a few original Warzone shirts from Paul Canade (guitarist of Warzone and Altercation) and he sent along these original stickers as well. I was more stoked on the stickers than the shirts!



Another guy that was an early pen pal of mine was a guy named Emil who did a zine called Artificial Insanity out of New Jersey. In 1987-1988, Emil would send me tapes with records I had a hard time getting. I remember him sending me a tape recording of his Project X 7" and his Antidote - "Thou Shalt Not Kill" 7". That tape blew me away! Both of those records were so hard to find at that point and really still are today, but as a 14 year old kid, they were even harder. I was so stoked on both those records and I vividly remember taking the tape with me to my friend Scott's half pipe and skating, while listening to those two records for the first time. Anytime I hear those records, I think of Emil giving me that tape. / One other guy that I was a pen pal with was this guy Garrett Chow from San Francisco. Garrett was an incredible artist and really just wrote me out of the blue, because he was a fan of Common Sense. He drew a logo for me and just offered it up because he liked the zine. Garrett and I would go back and forth and I found out Garrett was good friends with the guys in Unit Pride and he was drawing the artwork for their 1989 summer tour shirts. Garrett sent me a xerox copy of the original drawing that was going to be used on the shirts, kinda giving me a preview of what it was going to look like. / Aside from all the pen pals, fellow zine editors and band members that I would communicate with back then, there were also labels that would send promo material to us. Caroline was one of the labels that sent us promo records for review and I remember prior to Common Sense, while I was still doing Slew, Caroline sent promo copies of Youth Of Today's - "We're Not In This Alone" and Warzone's - "Don't Forget The Struggle..." along with promo pictures and promo posters. Getting our hands on all those cool Caroline promo packages was always exciting. We felt like we were getting an early look and listen to what we knew were going to be legendary releases.



Becky Miller (I Question Not Me fanzine): I always enjoy making trades with someone who is a talented artist. Dylan Chadwick in particular has drawn some cool shit on envelopes in the 15 years we have been penpals - most notably the BMIZE Breakdown logo that he sent me in 2009 that is still my IQNM Instagram avatar. Most recently, I ordered a tape of the rapper Omega Jackson and received a whole package of flyers and music from Tony Pradlik of Rockin' Rex, a record store in Yonkers, NY where Biohazard and Rejuvenate both played live sets. One of the flyers in the package was from the Biohazard show, and another featured a Circle Jerks show in Mount Vernon, NY, where I live. There was even a mini version of In Effect #8 that featured just the Rockin' Rex interview.



Josh (Preemitive Fear fanzine): Lion Of Judah - Soul Power Plus 4 12". So by now everyone should know I ride hard for LOJ, I took the name for my zine from them! I randomly got sent this record by some kind stranger, no note or return address, no nothing! It must have been someone that bought a zine to get my address, whoever you are thank you! / Muscle Before Paradise - Bellycrawl practice tape, stickers and original drawing. So I love MBP, they are one of my favourite bands to come out in the last 5 years, best non hardcore band to come from hardcore dudes! anyway I ordered there demo when it first came out and Mason the vocalist sent me an email a week or so later saying that he was sorry he couldn't post it for a couple of weeks because he was away from home and would throw in couple of extra bits. I thought a sticker or two, I was happy enough that he contacted me in the first place just to let me know. The package turned up and he had sent me a practice tape for a bunch of unreleased songs that would end up being on the next tape Bellycrawl, a bunch of stickers and an original drawing from the drummer and artist Blair Whiteford who also does all the MBP artwork. I was so stoked! what cool thing to do! Mason Mercer one of the nicest dudes I've ever dealt with in hardcore! / Eternal Champion Patch. I ordered a rejected test pressing of The Way Is Narrow and Jason threw in a free little EC patch which was cool cause I also ride hard for EC big time! Iron Age Forever. / Drug Test - Needle in Your Neck 7" on Yellow. I bought a couple different colours of the 7" from a dude on discogs to add to my collection and I got a note when I received them stating that he found a yellow one and threw it in for free cause he just wanted rid, stuff like this is why I love hardcore!

Bjorn Dossche (Rage fanzine): Right after "Into Oblivion" came out, my old band Rise And Fall got to tour Europe for a few weeks with our labelmates Doomriders. We're talking early 2006. Now, Doomriders were definitely a cool band in their own right and I was excited to hit the road with them. What made me even more excited though was knowing that their guitarist Chris Pupecki had been in the mighty Cast Iron Hike, a band I've loved ever since their "Watch It Burn" LP came out on Victory in 1997. Overlooked, underrated, possibly not the best match for a label like Victory in full Earth Crisis & Snapcase mode, the band never made it to Europe either, but goddamn, that LP is incredible to this day. Believe me. Turned out that Chris was a super humble dude, relaxed, smart and slightly surprised to find a Cast Iron Hike fanboy on this tour he was on. As tours go, we often had time to kill before and after shows, so we got to discuss late 80s and early 90s Boston Hardcore, him seeing the Bad Brains/Leeway tour, Only Living Witness and - of course - Cast Iron Hike. I was there to soak it all up, hopefully not being too much of a punisher. Great conversations and a really cool trip in general from what I remember. Last day of the tour, he tells me to give him my address 'cause he may have something for me at home. Cool. I forget all about it, until a few months later, out of the blue, a package turns up with a dope Cast Iron Hike shirt and a patch. Still cherish both. Thank you Chris.

Al McGuire (Gratitude fanzine): I'm trying to think of any real great stuff I've got as a freebie thrown in with a mailorder order and mostly drawing a blank. One time I ordered a shirt or something from Lockin Out and they threw in a skull and crossbones sticker that said NOICE underneath. What the fuck was that? Is it a meme? It's a Key and Peele reference I think? I put the sticker on my friend Casey Nealon's car as a prank and he didn't notice for a while and then didn't even care once he did, so it's still there.